

B.) CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:

an applicator adapted to rotate about an axis, the applicator having a plurality of fixed-length arms, and a plurality of heads fixed relative to one another at predetermined angles as measured relative to the axis, each head being located on a fixed-length arm, and each head being adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;

a motor adapted to rotate the applicator;

a control device adapted to control the rotational speed of the motor;

wherein the control device is operated such that each of the plurality of one or more applicator heads ~~travel~~ travels at a first speed when any one of the heads is at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and each of the plurality of one or more applicator heads ~~travel~~ travels at a second speed when any one of the heads is at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed;

wherein the angle about the axis between the first location and the second location is not substantially equal to the predetermined angles between the heads.

2. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of heads comprises two heads.

3. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of heads comprises vacuum gripping devices.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of heads comprises mechanical gripping devices.

5. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of heads comprises a combination of gripping devices.

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the motor is an AC servo motor.

7. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control device at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.

8. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core substrates and the plurality of heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core substrates.
9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the one or more targets are an absorbent core tissue layer or an absorbent core and the plurality of heads are adapted to deposit the absorbent core substrates onto the core tissue layer or absorbent core.
10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises an absorbent garment chassis layer and the plurality of heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the absorbent garment chassis layer.
11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are absorbent core subassemblies and the plurality of heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the absorbent core subassemblies.
12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the one or more parts are grip tabs and the plurality of heads are adapted to pick up, convey and deposit the grip tabs.
13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a supply of spaced apart target objects and the plurality of heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the supply of spaced apart target objects.
14. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more targets comprises a continuous web of target material and the plurality of heads are adapted to deposit the one or more parts onto the continuous web of target material.
15. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is less than the second speed.
16. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 3% to about 75% of the second speed.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 10% to about 50% of the second speed.
18. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is equal to about 20% of the second speed.
19. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 20 feet per minute to about 1,000 feet per minute and the second speed is about 50 feet per minute to about 3,000 feet per minute.
20. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 40 feet per minute to about 650 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,000 feet per minute to about 2,000 feet per minute.
21. (original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the first speed is about 65 feet per minute to about 328 feet per minute and the second speed is about 1,686 feet per minute.
22. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first speed is greater than the second speed.
23. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the plurality of heads further comprise cutting devices adapted to cut the one or more parts from a continuous supply web.
24. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the one or more heads further comprise bonding devices adapted to bond the one or more parts to the one or more targets.
25. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the bonding devices comprise portions of an ultrasonic bonding device.
26. (currently amended) An apparatus for assembling absorbent garments, the apparatus comprising:
a fixed-length applicator means adapted to hold absorbent garment parts, said applicator means being adapted to rotate about an axis, and having a plurality of

fixed-length arms upon which are mounted a plurality of applicator heads fixed relative to one another at predetermined angles as measured relative to the axis;

a driving means for rotating the fixed-length applicator means;

a control means adapted to control the driving means;

wherein the control device is operated such that the fixed-length applicator means travels at a first speed when any one of the applicator heads is at a first location to pick up one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed, and the fixed-length applicator means travels at a second speed when any one of the applicator heads is at a second location to deposit the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed;

wherein the angle about the axis between the first location and the second location is not substantially equal to the predetermined angles between the applicator heads.

27. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the fixed-length applicator means comprises a rotating assembly having one or more applicator heads.

28. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the driving means comprises an AC servo motor.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the control means at least partially comprises an AC servo drive.

30. (withdrawn) A method for assembling absorbent garments, the method comprising:
providing an applicator having one or more heads, each head being adapted to hold absorbent garment parts;

rotating the applicator such that the one or more heads travel through a circular path;

controlling the one or more heads such that the one or more heads travels at a first speed at a first location;

picking up, at the first location, one or more parts moving at approximately the first speed;

controlling the one or more heads such that the one or more heads travels at a second speed at a second location; and

depositing, at the second location, the one or more parts onto one or more targets moving at approximately the second speed.